







Midwin Programs and Volunteer Days June-September 2015

Scroll to the bottom for RSVP instructions.

FREE Tours and Programs. Click for 2015 Event, Program and Tour Brochure	Volunteer Days for Restoration Volunteer Days for Educators	Volunteer Training	SPECIAL EVENTS	 Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
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Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
17 June Wednesday 	9:30am – 11:30pm	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Midwin for Kids program – Buzzing About the Prairie. It's National Pollinator Week, so please join us to discover why birds, bats, bees, butterflies, and other insects are so important to all gardens, not just the prairie!
18 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
20 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midwin Tour: West Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midwin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
24 June Wednesday 	10:00am – 12:00pm	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Midwin for Kids program – Prairie Detectives. Come use your detecting skills. Go deep into the heart of the prairie. Use scientific techniques to discover secrets of this tallgrass prairie. Unearth what hides in the rarest ecosystem on earth, if you dare.
25 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
27 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midwin Tour: East Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midwin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
27 June Saturday	11am – 1:00pm	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Welcome Home, Boys in Blue! – 150th Anniversary: Midwin's Civil War Sesquicentennial events conclude this year on a celebratory note. The war to save the Union has come to an end and the local citizen soldiers are coming home. Join with friends and family as they gather on the prairie to welcome home their Boys in Blue and remember those who shall not be returning.
1 July Wednesday	9:00am - Noon	Midwin SO (Welcome Center) No field work.	Floristic Quality Monitoring Season Kick-off: Floristic quality monitors work as a team to identify native and non-native plant species present in each of Midwin's restoration areas and compile a species list. Monitoring dates will begin soon. This is an opportunity to review common plant species using herbarium specimens and refresh your identification skills – no field work. New volunteers welcome - please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
2 July Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
3 July Friday			Midwin Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday. Trails are always open from 4am-10pm.
4 July Saturday	8:30am - 10:30pm	South Arsenal and Chicago Rds.	Equestrian Tour: Join equestrian volunteers for an interpretive ride through portions of Midwin not yet open to the public. Learn about the history of the land and how it is being managed today. PLEASE NOTE: horse and rider will have to cross bridges, and share the trail system with cattle. Participants must bring their own horses.
8 July Wednesday 	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Evening on the Prairie: Find out what is blooming this time of year. Hear the wind rustle through prairie grass as the sun begins to set. Enjoy the scents only encountered on an evening stroll on the prairie.
9 July Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.

11 July Saturday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build an ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate? Tour lasts about 3 hours with travel over unimproved roads, including gravel and potholes.
11 July Saturday	10:30am - 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Exploring Midewin by Auto Tour: Learn about Midewin's past, present and future as we explore, on foot and car caravan, restored wetlands and prairie and observe rare grassland birds. We will also visit one of the remaining ammunition bunkers for a glimpse into the past. This tour takes place on unimproved roads; expect potholes and gravel.
11 July Saturday	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Twilight Bike Tour: Expect to see an abundance of wildlife which may include deer, turkey, grassland birds and maybe a coyote or two. Since at least part of the route will be on gravel surfaces, "fat" tires are recommended.
16 July Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
23 July Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
30 July Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
6 August Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
8 August Saturday 	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids - Kids Going Batty! Have you been going a little batty this summer? Ready to explore the world of bats? Learn about the types of bats found in the local area and why they are a special part of the ecosystem. Touch and examine bat skeletons, bring home an awesome bat craft and a bat box for your yard (one per family).
13 August Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
15 August Saturday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build an ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate? Tour lasts about 3 hours with travel over unimproved roads, including gravel and potholes.
20 August Thursday	9:00am - 1:00pm	River Road Seedbeds	Mighty Acorns Youth Program Training/Refresher: Volunteer interpreters lead activities for local elementary school students, such as insect collection, seed dispersal relay, and seed collection. New volunteers are welcome! Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
20 August Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
22 August Saturday	10:30am - 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Exploring Midewin by Auto Tour: Learn about Midewin's past, present and future as we explore, on foot and car caravan, restored wetlands and prairie and observe rare grassland birds. We will also visit one of the remaining ammunition bunkers for a glimpse into the past. This tour takes place on unimproved roads; expect potholes and gravel.
22 August Saturday	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Twilight Bike Tour: Expect to see an abundance of wildlife which may include deer, turkey, grassland birds and maybe a coyote or two. Since at least part of the route will be on gravel surfaces, "fat" tires are recommended.
27 August Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
29 August Saturday 	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids - Can You Dig It? People have lived on this land for thousands of years. How did the people of "prairie past" use the land to live and what can we learn from them? Join "Archaeologist Joe" to make maps, learn about the tools an archaeologist uses, and get out in the field to investigate a site from the 1800's. Do you like to dig in the dirt and solve mysteries? Maybe you're an archaeologist too!
3 September Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
5 September Saturday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build an ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate? Tour lasts about 3 hours with travel over unimproved roads, including gravel and potholes.

7 September Monday			Midwin Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday. Trails are always open from 4am-10pm.
10 September Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
12 September Saturday			CANCELED: Equestrian Tour.
17 September Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
19 September Saturday	10:30am - 12:30pm	Midwin SO (Welcome Center)	Exploring Midwin by Auto Tour: Learn about Midwin's past, present and future as we explore, on foot and car caravan, restored wetlands and prairie and observe rare grassland birds. We will also visit one of the remaining ammunition bunkers for a glimpse into the past. This tour takes place on unimproved roads; expect potholes and gravel.
24 September Thursday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midwin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Read below for important details.
26 SEPTEMBER SATURDAY (Subject to Change.) 	8:30am-12:30pm followed by a complimentary lunch	River Road Seedbeds	NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY: Join together with 150 other people to help harvest seed, enhance public trails, protect historical sites from invasives or make sure the water is healthy. Volunteer activities followed by a complimentary lunch and raffle prizes. Pick a project and RSVP right away, projects are known to fill up very fast!!

To RSVP for Tours and Programs: Advance registration is required to guarantee your spot by calling our main number (815) 423-6370 or email Midwin_RSVP@fs.fed.us. Please review full program details in the [brochure](#).

To RSVP for Volunteer Days or trainings: Please contact Kathryn Gorman, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at (815) 423-2148, email kathryngorman@fs.fed.us or use your [Volgistics account](#).

**** General Restoration Volunteer Days** - The activities for these days will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a Volunteer Day. Midwin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Dress in layers with sturdy field boots. Volunteer Days and Events do fill up. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend, allows our staff to better organize the event and we can inform you of Changes or Cancellations.

